

Appl. No 10/761,731
Amdt. dated November 1, 2005
Reply to office action of August 11, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A tool, comprising:

a holder, having:

a receiving area for accepting a fastener in an insertion

direction; and

a first notch transverse to said insertion direction, said notch in a sidewall of said holder and in communication with said receiving area; and

a retainer permanently secured to said holder, said retainer extending through said first notch and into said receiving area;

wherein said retainer deflects away from said receiving area during insertion of said fastener and provides a bias force to said fastener to retain the fastener against said holder.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The tool of claim 1, wherein said holder has a second notch, transverse to said insertion direction and parallel with said first notch, and in a sidewall of said holder through which said retainer extends, said second notch not being in communication with said receiving area.

Claim 3 (Original): The tool of claim 2, wherein said second notch is opposite said first notch.

Appl. No 10/761,731
Amdt. dated November 1, 2005
Reply to office action of August 11, 2005

Claim 4 (Original): The tool of claim 1, wherein said retainer comprises a split ring.

Claim 5 (Original): The tool of claim 1, wherein said retainer is a spring.

Claim 6 (Original): The tool of claim 1, wherein said receiving area has a depth and said first notch resides approximately at a midpoint of said depth.

Claim 7 (Original): The tool of claim 1, wherein said holder has an end that accepts said fastener and said retainer does not reside at said end.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A socket assembly, comprising

a socket, having:

a receiving area for accepting a fastener in an insertion direction;

and

a first notch in a sidewall transverse to said insertion direction, said

first notch in communication with said receiving area; and

a retainer permanently secured to said holder, said retainer extending in said notch

and through into said receiving area;

wherein said retainer deflects away from said receiving area during insertion of said fastener and provides a bias force to said fastener to retain said fastener against said holder.

Appl. No 10/761,731
Amdt. dated November 1, 2005
Reply to office action of August 11, 2005

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said holder has a second ~~notch~~ notch, transverse to said insertion direction and parallel with said first notch, and in a sidewall of said holder through which said retainer extends, said second notch not being in communication with said receiving area.

Claim 10 (Original): The socket assembly of claim 9, wherein said second notch is opposite said first notch.

Claim 11 (Original): The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said retainer comprises a split ring.

Claim 12 (Original): The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said retainer is a spring.

Claim 13 (Original): The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said receiving area has a depth and said notch resides approximately at a midpoint of said depth.

Claim 14 (Original): The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said holder has an end that accepts said fastener and said retainer does not reside at said end.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A retainer permanently secured to a holder for preventing a fastener from departing said holder, comprising:

an arcuate medial section; and

Appl. No 10/761,731
Amdt. dated November 1, 2005
Reply to office action of August 11, 2005

a pair of arms extending from said medial section, each of said arms having a bent tip;
wherein said medial section and said tips conform to the shape of said holder.

Claim 16 (Original): The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer is generally planar.

Claim 17 (Original): The retainer of claim 15, wherein said arms are generally linear.

Claim 18 (Original): The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer is a split ring.

Claim 19 (Original): The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer is a spring.

Claim 20 (Original): The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer comprises wire.

Claim 21 (New): The retainer of claim 1, wherein the retainer is secured to the fastener by welding.

Claim 22 (New): The retainer of claim 1, wherein said retainer comprises a cross sectional profile that is rectangular.

Claim 23 (New): The retainer of claim 22, wherein said rectangular profile comprises a chamfered edge.

Appl. No 10/761,731
Amdt. dated November 1, 2005
Reply to office action of August 11, 2005

Claim 24 (New): The retainer of claim 8, wherein the retainer is secured to the fastener by welding.

Claim 25 (New): The retainer of claim 8, wherein said retainer comprises a cross sectional profile that is rectangular.

Claim 26 (New): The retainer of claim 25, wherein said rectangular profile comprises a chamfered edge.

Claim 27 (New): The retainer of claim 15, wherein the retainer is secured to the fastener by welding.

Claim 28 (New): The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer comprises a cross sectional profile that is rectangular.

Claim 29 (New): The retainer of claim 28, wherein said rectangular profile comprises a chamfered edge.